

Technologies Across Nebraska Action Plan

(Date of Last Revision: March 20, 2002)

Goal

To provide a sustained source of information, training and educational opportunities to enable Nebraska communities, citizens and businesses to make informed decisions regarding information technology.

Within two years, it is critical that as many Nebraska communities as possible have been engaged in a decision making process to insure their citizens have access to and are able to use the current information technology to enhance their businesses and quality of life.

Mission

Technologies Across Nebraska (TAN) is an initiative led by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension to create awareness and provide education to support communities as they make decisions regarding their future use of information technology. The initiative will provide a network of expertise to assist communities in locating current information on infrastructure, policy and education and training issues and opportunities. Over forty entities are involved in a Technologies Partnership. This group of organizations, agencies and education systems are working cooperatively to help communities create awareness of, access to and ability for use of information technologies.

Expected Outcomes

- Communities in Nebraska will make progress toward becoming Information Age communities;
- Communities will have easy access to information and resources to assist them in developing their capacity to use information technology for community and economic development;
- State agencies, education institutions, and other entities with responsibilities in the area of community and economic development will coordinate and collaborate to leverage available resources and maximize benefits.

Strategies Underway or Already Accomplished

Coalition Building

- Develop a coalition of policy makers and organizations with an interest in information technology development in Nebraska's communities.
Status: Ongoing
- Meet in other locations to promote interest.
Status: Summer meeting will be held outside of Lincoln.

Information/Resource Development

- Develop a community IT toolkit, drawing upon resources available through the Extension programs of other states.
Status: Ongoing. Health Section is almost developed. A local government section needs to be developed.

Community Outreach

- Create awareness in communities of the importance of information technology by developing a speaker's bureau and by other methods.
Status: Ongoing
- Write a NITC Community Technology Fund grant application for community surveys.
Status: Application was submitted on Feb. 15, 2002.
- Host a conference on IT planning and development.
Status: Conference was held April 12, 2002 in Aurora, Nebraska.

Priorities for Next Year (March, 2002- March, 2003)

Information/Resource Development

- Inventory what activities TAN partners are planning regarding information technology development in the next year and make this information.
Lead: University of Nebraska
Timeframe: Inventory forms will be distributed at the March, 2002 Technologies Across Nebraska Meeting.
- Identify gaps in the information and resources that are available to assist communities.
Lead: NITC
Timeframe: Initial gap analysis will be completed by August 30, 2002.

Community Outreach

- Promote information exchange and mentoring among communities.
Lead: NITC, RDC, and University of Nebraska
Timeframe: Starting February, 2002
Action Steps:
 1. Establish links to community IT committees using the information collected by the Rural Development Commission. The NITC sent an e-mail to community IT contacts inviting them to conference.
 2. Develop an e-mail discussion list. The NITC has worked with NOL to set up a discussion list. The list will become active by April 30.
 3. The RDC and the University of Nebraska will work together to set up regional meetings of IT committees.
- Pilot toolkit materials by working with at least 8 communities to develop community or regional IT plans.
Lead: University of Nebraska, RDC (and the Nebraska Development Network), and NITC
Timeframe: Beginning May, 2002

Action Steps:

1. Select pilot communities after April 12 conference.
2. Develop regional resource teams with representatives from University of Nebraska Extension, community colleges, telecommunications professionals, and other resource providers.